

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of obtaining solution suggestions for contradictional problems using a specially programmed computer having two-way access to at least one semantically-indexed database and having at least one user accessible output device comprising the steps of;

inputting into the specially programmed computer a natural language query which is a restatement of a contradiction having at least two contradictional elements and having at least two semantic items as part of each contradictional element;

submitting the natural language query to at least one semantically indexed database which is accessible by the computer;

causing responses from the search of the database to be communicated to the computer; and

providing from the computer to an output device the responses from the search of the database.

2. The method of claim 1 in which the semantically indexed database is a semantically indexed patent collection.

3. The method of claim 1 in which the natural language query is submitted to search a semantically indexed database, the natural language query being combined with a specific search criterion.
4. The method of claim 1 in which the natural language query is submitted recurrently to different parts of the semantically indexed database, the parts of the semantically indexed database being selected according to a specific criterion which is combined with the natural language query, and corresponding recurrent responses create dependence of the search results to the specific criterion whereby variation in the search results to the recurrent different specific criteria may be determined..
5. The method of claim 3 in which the specific search criterion is a time interval.
6. The method of claim 3 in which the specific search criterion is a defined type of organization.
7. The method of claim 3 in which the specific search criterion is a geographical description.
8. The method of claim 4 in which the different specific criteria are different time periods or different particular times.
9. The method of claim 4 in which the different specific criteria are different geographical areas.
10. The method of claim 6 in which the defined type of organization is an industrial designation.

11. The method of claim 6 in which the defined type of organization is an institutional designation.

12. A system for obtaining solution suggestions for contradictory problems, said system comprising;

 a specially programmed computer having an input device and at least one output device;

 said program having an element enabling inputting into the program a natural language query as a restatement of a contradiction said contradiction having at least two contradictory elements and having at least two semantic items as part of each contradictory element;

 at least one semantically indexed database accessible by the program;

 an element of said program enabling submission of said natural language query to said at least one semantically indexed database to execute a search; and

 an element of the program providing access to the responses from the search by the output device to a user.

13. The system as in claim 12 in which the semantically indexed database is a semantically indexed patent collection.

14. The system of claim 12 in which the natural language query is submitted to search a semantically indexed database, the natural language query being combined with a specific search criterion.

15. The system of claim 12 in which the natural language query is submitted recurrently to different parts of the semantically indexed database, the parts of the semantically indexed database being selected according to a specific criterion which is combined with the natural language query, and corresponding recurrent responses create dependence of the search results to the specific criterion whereby variation in the search results to the recurrent different specific criteria may be determined.
16. The system of claim 14 in which the specific search criterion is a time interval.
17. The system of claim 14 in which the specific search criterion is a defined type of organization.
18. The system of claim 14 in which the specific search criterion is a geographical description.
19. The system of claim 15 in which the different specific criteria are different time periods or different particular times.
20. The system of claim 15 in which the different specific criteria are different geographical areas.
21. The system of claim 17 in which the defined type of organization is an industrial designation.
22. The system of claim 17 in which the defined type of organization is an institutional designation.
23. A method of obtaining solution suggestions for contradictory

problems using a specially programmed computer having two-way access to at least one semantically indexed database and having at least one user accessible output device comprising the steps of;

formulating by a portion of the computer program a natural language query as a restatement of a contradiction having at least two contradictory elements and having at least two semantic items as part of each contradictory element;

submitting the natural language query to at least one semantically indexed database which is accessible by the computer;

causing responses from the search of the database to be communicated to the computer; and

providing from the computer to an output device the responses from the search of the database.

24. The method of claim 23 in which the semantically indexed database is a semantically indexed patent collection.

25. The method of claim 23 in which the natural language query is submitted to search a semantically indexed database, the natural language query being combined with a specific search criteria.

26. The method of claim 23 in which the natural language query is submitted recurrently to different parts of the semantically indexed database, the parts of the semantically indexed database being selected according to a specific criterion which is combined with the natural language query, and corresponding recurrent responses create

dependence of the search results to the specific criteria whereby variation in the search results to the recurrent different specific criteria may be determined..

27. The method of claim 25 in which the specific search criterion is a time interval.

28. The method of claim 25 in which the specific search criterion is a defined type of organization.

29. The method of claim 25 in which the specific search criterion is a geographical description.

30. The method of claim 26 in which the different specific criteria are different time periods or different particular times.

31. The method of claim 26 in which the different specific criteria are different geographical areas.

32. The method of claim 28 in which the defined type of organization is an industrial designation.

33. The method of claim 28 in which the defined type of organization is an institutional designation.

34. A system for obtaining solution suggestions for contradictory problems, said system comprising;

a computer specially programmed for formulating a natural language query as a restatement of a contradiction said contradiction having at least two contradictory elements and having at least two semantic items as part of each contradictory element;

an element having a semantically indexed database or access to a semantically indexed database;

said computer being programmed to enable submission of said natural language query to said semantically indexed database to execute a search; and

means for providing access to the results of the search to a user.

35. The system as in claim 34 in which the semantically indexed database is a semantically indexed patent collection.

36. The system of claim 34 in which the natural language query is submitted to search a semantically indexed database, the natural language query being combined with a specific search criterion.

37. The system of claim 34 in which the natural language query is submitted recurrently to different parts of the semantically indexed database, the parts of the semantically indexed database being selected according to a specific criterion which is combined with the natural language query, and corresponding recurrent responses create dependence of the search results to the specific criterion whereby variation in the search results to the recurrent different specific criteria may be determined.

38. The system of claim 36 in which the specific search criterion is a time interval.

- 39. The system of claim 36 in which the specific search criterion is a defined type of organization.
- 40. The system of 36 in which the specific search criterion is a geographical description.
- 41. The system of claim 37 in which the different specific criteria are different time periods or different particular times.
- 42. The system of claim 37 in which the different specific criteria are different geographical areas.
- 43. The system of claim 39 in which the defined type of organization is an industrial designation.
- 44. The system of claim 39 in which the defined type of organization is an institutional designation.